

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USDEL MC

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089872

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION

REFS: A. USNATO 916; B. PARIS 8291

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED MISSION'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS
OF CURRENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION (REF A). WE CONCUR
IN ASSESSMENT THAT OUR INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED IF
EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION DEVELOPS IN THE EUROGROUP, A
FORUM WHOSE CLOSE LINKS TO NATO ASSURES A CAREFUL HEARING
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OF US VIEWS ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN. NUMBERING 10

ALLIANCE MEMBER STATES, EUROGROUP REPRESENTS A BROADER SPECTRUM OF EUROPEAN NATIONS THAN EITHER THE SEVEN-MEMBER WEU OR THE EC NINE. IT IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF CONVENTIONAL NATO DEFENSE IN AN ERA OF NUCLEAR PARITY AND THUS DIRECTLY FURTHERS AN IMPORTANT US POLICY GOAL.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN A HIGHLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROGROUP. WE CONCUR IN MISSION'S SUGGESTION THAT WE MAKE FREQUENT AND FAVORABLE REFERENCES TO EUROGROUP IN US POLICY STATEMENTS. IN PRESENTATIONS TO CONGRESS, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY STRESSED EUROPEAN DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS: IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 19, AND IN THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON

JACKSON-NUNN. IN FUTURE REFERENCES TO EUROPEAN FORCE IMPROVEMENTS WE WILL HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE EUROGROUP AND ITS SEVERAL ON-GOING COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.

3. AT SAME TIME, WE WISH TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY POSTURE TOWARD WEU, AND PARTICULARLY ITS PARLIAMENTARY BODIES, BUT WOULD WISH TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR CLOSER MILITARY COOPERATION IN WEU IN LIGHT OF THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON NATO. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO REACT TO VAGUE SUGGESTIONS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE RECENTLY MADE ABOUT ENHANCED DEFENSE COOPERATION WITHIN WEU FRAMEWORK.

4. WITH RESPECT TO EC-NINE CONSULTATIONS ON DEFENSE ISSUES, WE HAVE NOTED REPORT (REF B) THAT FRANCE IS NOW PREPARED TO DISCUSS CERTAIN DEFENSE/ARMS CONTROL ISSUES IN THAT FORUM. WHEREAS IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT EC-NINE WILL BECOME A SIGNIFICANT FORUM FOR DEFENSE MATTERS, WE RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THAT THIS COULD CREATE FOR US SECURITY INTERESTS AND FOR THE ALLIANCE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO TAKE FORMAL POSITION WITH RESPECT TO EC-NINE DISCUSSIONS OF THREE ISSUES MENTIONED IN REF B: THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF THE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSING EUROPEAN DEFENSE ISSUES; COOPERATIVE
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PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS; AND IMPACT OF MBFR ON FUTURE EUROPEAN UNION. NEVERTHELESS, IF EC CONSULTATIONS SERIOUSLY ADDRESS THESE AND OTHER SECURITY ISSUES, IT WOULD HEIGHTEN THE NEED FOR THE STRENGTHENED CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE SEEK BETWEEN THE US AND THE NINE, AND CALL FOR ARRANGEMENTS RELATING EC-NINE DELIBERATIONS ON SECURITY ISSUES TO NATO, WHICH PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK FOR ALLIED MUTUAL SECURITY

AND DEFENSE COOPERATION.

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